

County Trends



San Juan

October 2003

A Local Economic Perspective

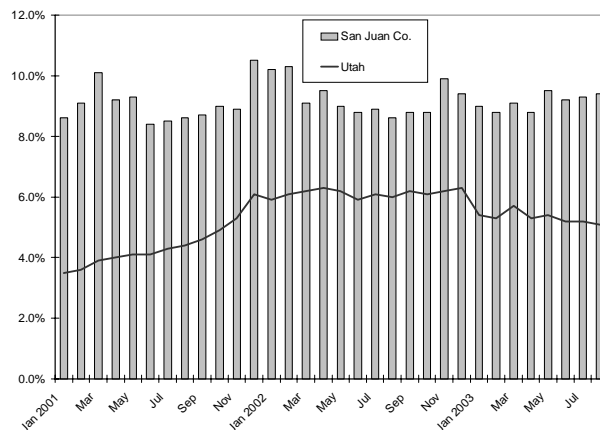
2003 - Off To A Slow Start in San Juan County

While employment expanded during 2002 in San Juan County, it began 2003 with a whimper - growing a scant 0.6 percent. More worrisome was that as each month of the quarter progressed, the outlook weakened, and actually dipped into negative territory in March. The feeble start is also reflected in the slight upward trend in unemployment rates. The August 2003 rate of 9.4 percent is an increase from the 8.6 percent reported in August of 2002.

Just a Slight Gain in Jobs

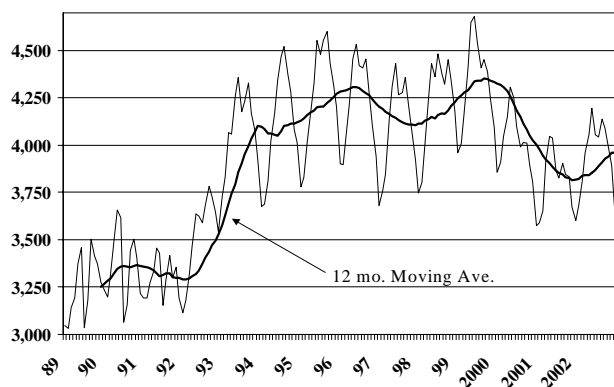
San Juan County's economy barely scratched out job gains in the first quarter of 2003, growing 0.6 percent. On the positive side was solid growth in mining and construction. Mining added more than 50 jobs, in nonmetallic minerals and oil and gas activity. Construction jobs rose as well as heavy construction work and special trade contractors added jobs. Not all was rosy in the goods-production sectors though, as manufacturing jobs tumbled by nearly 70 at wood products, petroleum, and nonmetallic mineral manufacturing establishments. Jobs for oil and gas drilling services also declined as did construction of commercial buildings.

Seasonally Adjusted San Juan County Unemployment Rates



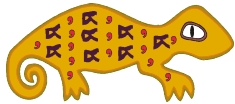
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Monthly Nonfarm Employment in San Juan County, 1989-2003

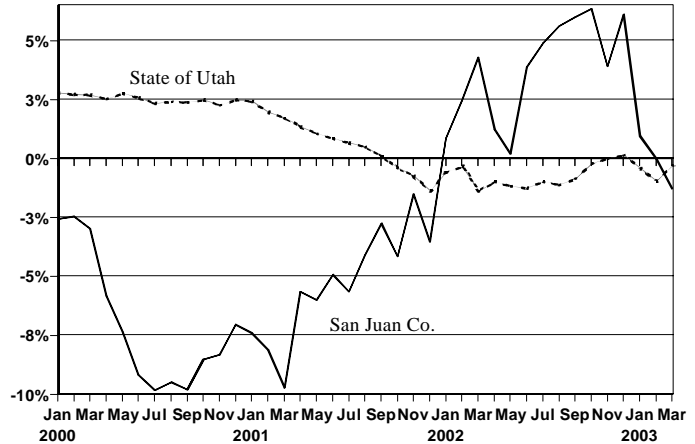


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





Year-Over Change in San Juan County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

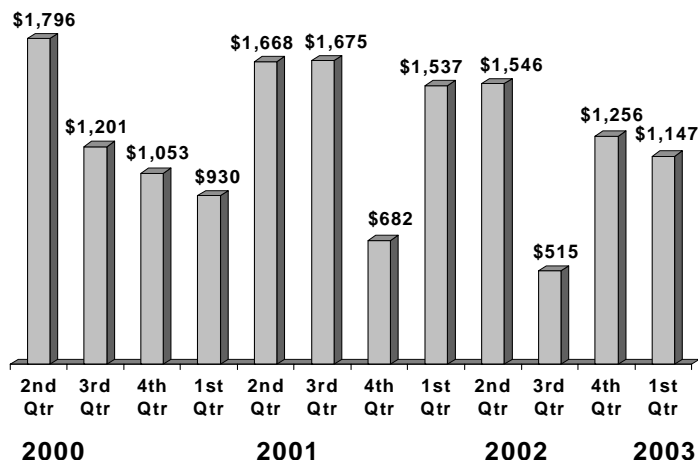
Jobs managed to eke out a slight gain in the first quarter of 2003 in San Juan County. The seasonal slowdown in the recreation industry accounted for most of the job losses. These were offset by a solid increase in mining and construction jobs. Banking, wholesale trade, and government employment also added positions.

The service-production industries, which account for more than 80 percent of the employment in the county, showed a scant 0.2 percent increase in jobs. Year-over data for the first quarter of 2003 show that most job gains were related to banking, wholesale trade, and government. Smaller increases were reported in information, professional and business services, and repair services. These gains were largely offset by job losses in leisure and hospitality, as both lodging and food services lost positions. Retail trade was down slightly as was trucking. Some of the decline is due to the traditional off-season slowdown in the recreation industry.

Construction Declines

Year-over construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, fell 25 percent in total valuation during the first quarter of 2003. Residential construction activity was steady as 10 new units were approved, compared to 11 in the first quarter of 2002. The valuation of residential buildings increased a hearty 36 percent. The decrease in activity was in nonresidential building as valuations tumbled 84 percent. The valuations for all renovation work also dropped substantially.

San Juan County Total Construction Permit Valuation



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



Sales Slide Slightly

Year-over gross taxable sales for the first quarter of 2003 declined 4 percent. The main reason was a sharp drop in mining and electric and gas sales. On a brighter note, retail sales rose 9 percent. The presence of a new retail outlet provided a boost in sales at general merchandise stores. Services sales were up slightly as lodging and business services expanded. However, repair and recreation services sales declined by nearly the same amount.

Outlook for 2003

The economy of San Juan County continued to struggle - eking out slight employment gains in the first quarter. Unfortunately, the employment numbers weakened each month of the quarter, indicating overall frailty in the job market. The outlook is for continued weakness, as the strength of the recession slows a recovery in Utah and San Juan County.

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Quick Facts

August 2003

Unemployment Rate

San Juan County	9.4%
Utah	5.1%
U.S.	6.1%

Mar. 2002 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

San Juan County	-1.3%
Utah	-0.3%
U.S.	-0.3%

1st Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

San Juan County	-25.4%
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Sales

San Juan County	-4.0%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Utah Tax Commission,
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

For more economic information about San Juan County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>

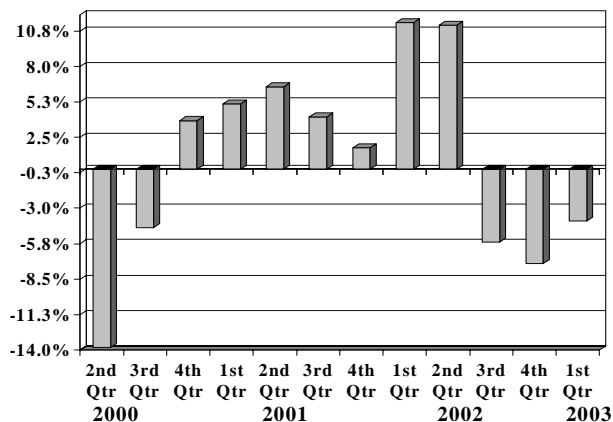
State of Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

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Year-Over Change in Duchesne County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.



03-13ESJ-1003

Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128

What's Up? 4

- Monticello City received a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant of \$770,000 and a loan of \$946,700 for improvements to the city's water system.
- The Federal Home Loan Bank awarded \$192,000 in Affordable Housing Program funds to the Navajo Utah Commission to rehabilitate housing in Aneth.
- RTI, a Utah Valley-based company, announced it plans to open a manufacturing facility in Monticello. The company manufactures railroad ties using recycled plastics.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/sanjuan/sanjuane.pdf>

